



Attorney's Docket No.: 14503-003001 / F62554US

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Elmar Kraus et al.

Art Unit : 1723

Serial No. : 10/797,514

Examiner : Krishnan S. Menon

Filed : March 10, 2004

Title : USE OF RECOMBINANT ALBUMIN IN DIALYSIS AFTER LIVER FAILURE

**Mail Stop Amendment**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Responsive to the action mailed March 9, 2006, Applicants elect the invention of Group I. Applicants also submit herewith a Preliminary Amendment. For consistency with U.S. patent practice, claim 1 is amended to recite a "method for dialysis" rather than the "use of recombinant HSA in dialysis." Claims 2-18 are amended for consistency with claim 1. Similarly, claim 53 is amended to recite a "method for treatment of liver failure" rather than the "use of recombinant HSA in preparation of a medicament for the treatment of liver failure." Also included in the Preliminary Amendment are new claims 54-59. Claims 54-56 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, while claims 57-59 depend directly or indirectly from claim 53. Thus, Applicants' election of Group I reads on claims 1-18 and 53-59.

The election is made with traverse. Applicants submit that there would be no undue search burden to examine both the elected claims of Group I and the claims of Group V, drawn to a method for separation of protein-bound substances (claims 41-52). Thus, Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of Group V with Group I. If the Examiner agrees to the request for rejoinder, Applicants further elect the species of claim 41 without traverse.

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL**

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Serial No. : 10/797,514  
Filed : March 10, 2004  
Page : 2 of 2

Attorney's Docket No.: 14503-003001 / F62554US

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Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 7, 2006

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